

Community Updates and Changes

SENDCAA serves clients in our Wahpeton and Lisbon communities. Current needs in Wahpeton include more affordable housing, child care, living wage jobs, lack of transportation and affordable mental health resources. transportation and increase in rent in the area. Many people don't have vehicles and transportation such as taxi, buses, and Uber are not readily available in the area. In Lisbon there is also a lack of childcare options and mental health services for children. Similar to Wahpeton, Lisbon has several job openings, but jobs that do not pay well enough to afford various increases in the community such as inflation, housing, and child care.

Our CAP agency was selected to be part of a Community Action Whole Family Guiding Coalition. As a program we are breaking down silos within SENDCAA to reduce barriers and provide better resource navigation to clients. This has enhanced our Family Empowerment program which will provide family-centered coaching. Being a part of the Whole Family initiative will further our impact in South Eastern North Dakota.

During our Self-Assessment survey, parents were asked about the needs that they identify in the community. They responded with more access to childcare and Head Start, transportation to and from Head Start, community wellness options and affordable family friendly activities inside and outside, financial support, and mental health access. Suggestions for program improvement centered around extending hours of care and programming to better meet the needs of working families.

Fargo-Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness has estimated that 1,500 individuals are experiencing homelessness on any given night. There are only 330 shelter beds available in our community. Their goal is to support existing agencies to provide more resources and build up capacity. Barriers that the homeless population face in our communities include poor credit and rental history, employment and livable wages, transportation, and affordable housing. Mental health, chronic health, and substance abuse are also common conditions we see our homeless population face.

Both Fargo Public and West Fargo Public Schools ECSE programs continue to see an increase in children who are needing services for their disabilities in the community. Both programs have needed to expand their programs by adding more classrooms due to the growth. West Fargo Public Schools ECSE program offers a variety of different schedules to accommodate the increase of needs.

Child care continues to be a need in our communities with centers often closing or adjusting their hours and days due to not having enough staff. Many childcares have long waitlists specifically with infant care.

Due to federal SNAP cuts, several of our community partners have been affected. NDSU Extension is no longer offering nutrition education classes to our program due to the cuts. Our program has applied for a nutrition grant through the Office of Head Start in order to supplement these education classes.